



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 24 April 2020

Staffing

We have one 'hello' and one 'goodbye' to share this week. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Woodhead back to the maths department following her maternity leave; she will be working two days per week. We have said a sad farewell to Mr Webster, who has been covering for Mrs Loudon in music while she is on maternity leave. Due to the Covid-19 situation, Mr Webster has returned home to Australia earlier than planned. We are very grateful for all that he has done for our pupils in his time with us at NBHS. Please note that this means we currently have just one music teacher, Ms Spooner, taking responsibility for all year groups.

Support for Learning at Home

We have now incorporated a 'Remote Learning' menu on our school website, easily accessible via the tabs bar at the top of the home page. It includes sub-menus for pupils and for parents. Supporting documents from the Scottish Government and from East Lothian Council will also be added to their associated sub-menus as we receive them. By Monday 27 April, the pupils' pages will be fully populated with Remote Learning Curriculum Overviews for all subjects and all year groups. We hope these will be helpful for both pupils and parents.

The National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFs) has an excellent website, including guidance for parents on supporting your child's learning at home. Go straight to this page for the most recent advice: <https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/04/20/term-4-guidance-for-parents/>.

We are all - staff, pupils, parents and carers alike – still learning about how to teach, learn and work at home as effectively as possible. Teachers continue to collaborate on developing remote teaching approaches that will be of most benefit to our pupils. For example, over the coming week, all teachers are taking part in professional learning sessions on differentiation and feedback for remote learning. We have received a couple of queries from parents about the possibility of running virtual lessons via video link. This is not something that we have in place at present: there are issues around infrastructure and equity of access, for example. Also, we are keen to ensure that the timing for completion of learning activities is flexible, able to be done when it best suits individual pupils and their families. It may be, however, that some staff will look at this as they continue to develop teaching approaches.

Support for Mental Health

You will have received via email information about support services for young people in East Lothian. A useful website from the Scottish Government is <https://clearyourhead.scot/>. Resources on the site include a helpful video, which you can find here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QncujlXD_a8.

Pupils' Last Day

Had we been in school as normal, this would have been the last day at NBHS for our S6 pupils, as well as for pupils leaving from S4 and S5. Leaving school is a big event in the lives of our young people and it is very sad that we have not been able to mark the occasion by holding our planned events for leavers. We still hold out a slim hope that we might be able to rearrange them at a later date. We have written to all S6 pupils today to wish them well for the future, and we send our good wishes to pupils leaving from other year groups, too. We will miss them all!

Careers Information

We have been asked by Skills Development Scotland to let you know that you will be able to continue to contact the Careers Adviser for support. This will be done via telephone, Skype or online. Please be reassured that SDS Careers Advisers will continue to proactively contact pupils to offer them ongoing support. They also update information and post vacancy information at edubuzz.org/careers and Twitter [mickburns2](https://twitter.com/mickburns2). Any school leaver from S4 to S6 who needs help can contact our Careers Advisers by calling the local centre on 0131 665 3120, or contacting the NBHS Careers Advisers directly at:

Mick Burns Careers Adviser
Email: mick.burns@sds.co.uk
Tel: **Mobile:** 07887 831 454

Jennifer Jones Careers Adviser
Email: jennifer.jones@sds.co.uk
Mobile: 07887 831 389

Children's Hubs / Provision of Free School Meals

A small number of our pupils are being supported within the North Berwick cluster hub at Law Primary School. As of this week, the operating hours of the provision have been extended from 8am until 6pm. This will be a welcome development for some of our families. We are delighted – and very grateful - that a number of NBHS staff have volunteered to work in the East Lothian hubs.

Families entitled to free school meals should now be receiving a weekly food box delivery. If there are any issues, or any families who have not yet taken up their free school meal allocation but wish to do so, then please contact communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk

Communication of Information

We are very aware that there is a lot of information coming out from various sources on education issues at present. Our role is to ensure that parents get all the information they need without being overwhelmed. Parents of senior pupils, in particular, are receiving many communications via school email, including those from the Scottish Government, East Lothian Council and the SQA. Our approach is to err on the side of caution and send all this information to you so that you do not miss out on anything important. You can then make the decision on whether you wish to read it all. We will, of course, continue to produce our regular weekly update and we hope that you find it informative.